



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

May 1, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Military Spouse Day

I am pleased to designate Friday, May 11, 2001, as Military Spouse Day. Each year, since 1984, the Services have set aside a special day to recognize the countless contributions of military spouses. Our military spouses are often called upon to make sacrifices as they face the unique challenges of military life. These women and men must cope with deployments, family separations, and frequent moves, all of which require special skills and commitment. Throughout our nation's history, military spouses have not only met these challenges, but their energy and dedication have helped our military communities to thrive. Their selfless contributions play a vital role in the stability of our service members and our communities.

As we celebrate Military Spouse Day, I offer my personal thanks to every military spouse for a job well done. I encourage commanders to plan special recognition events on or around May 11 to honor the many contributions of military spouses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. R. - JH".